

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application with the following claim listing:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a fusion protein that binds an Fc receptor expressed on a target cell, wherein the fusion protein comprises in an N- to C-terminal direction an immunoglobulin Fc region and an interferon-alpha protein, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region is derived from at least a portion of an IgG1 chain constant region or at least a portion of an IgG3 chain constant region, thereby to treat a condition in said mammal.

27. (Currently amended) A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a multimeric protein comprising at least two fusion proteins, wherein the multimeric protein binds an Fc receptor expressed on a target cell, and wherein each fusion protein comprises in an N- to C-terminal direction an immunoglobulin Fc region and an interferon-alpha protein, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region is derived from at least a portion of an IgG1 chain constant region or at least a portion of an IgG3 chain constant region, thereby to treat a condition in said mammal.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the condition is a liver disorder.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the liver disorder is hepatitis.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the target cell is a liver cell.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the target cell is a liver cell.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the condition is a liver disorder.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the liver disorder is hepatitis.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region domain.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin CH3 domain.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the multimeric protein comprises at least two fusion proteins that are linked via a covalent bond.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the fusion protein is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) signal sequence;

(b) an immunoglobulin Fc region derived from at least a portion of an IgG1 chain constant region or at least a portion of an IgG3 chain constant region; and

(c) an interferon-alpha sequence,

wherein the signal sequence, the immunoglobulin Fc region and the interferon-alpha sequence are encoded serially in a 5' to 3' direction.